promote the interests of farmers by placing their problems before the Government from time to time.

Development of Milch Cattle

†4644. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the possibilities of the development of milch cattle in the country;

(b) if so, the annual turnover of this industry, so far, along with the percentage of contribution of this industry towards the Gross Domestic Product of the country; and

(c) the number of part time and full time persons involved in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) For genetic upgradation of bovine population, a 100% centrally sponsored scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)" is in operation since October, 2000.26 States and 2 Union Territories are participating/implementing the scheme. Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 202.50 crores has been released to these States/UTs till date. In order to prevent outbreak of the diseases in livestock, funds are provided to States under the scheme, "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)" on 75:25 (centrahstate) sharing basis.

(b) The value of output from livestock sector in the national economy during 2003-04 at current prices was Rs. 1,64,509 crores and the percentage contribution of this sector towards the Gross Domestic Product of the country was 5.22% during 2003-04 at current prices.

(c) As per the National Sample Survey Organisation, 55th Round survey, 1999-2000, the estimated workforce in this sector was 11 million in principal status and 8 million in subsidiary status.

Setting up of a manure/fertilizer factory in Khagaria

†4645. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the land from East

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Nakabiya to Kursela in Khagana district in Bihar is very fertile and the farmers there have to bear exorbitant prices due to dependence on other bazaars for manure/fertilizers required for fertile agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a manure fertilizer factory in Khagaria region for the benefit of farmers;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA). (a) Urea, a controlled fertilizer and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are made available to farmers of the country including those belonging to Khagaria District in Bihar at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP)/indicative MRPs. The MRP/indicative MRPs of fertilizers are uniform throughout the country.

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Banned pesticides

4646. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of banned pesticides are still being used by farmers of Punjab and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to curb and check the marketing of such pesticides and action taken against culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government does not have any authentic report regarding use of banned pesticides by farmers in Punjab and other parts of the country.

(c) The manufacture, sale, distribution and use of banned pesticides is a punishable offence under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Insecticide inspectors have been provided with the requisite powers to ensure that the provisions of the Act and the Rules made there under are compiled with.

Horticulture promotion in Orissa

4647. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: